

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

October 14, 2005

TO: K. Fortenberry, Technical Director
FROM: D. Grover, W. Linzau, and R. Quirk, Hanford Site Representatives
SUBJ: Activity Report for the Week Ending October 14, 2005

ORP Assessment of Integrated Safety Management (ISM): The Office of River Protection (ORP) performed their annual review of the CH2M Hill Hanford Group (CHG) ISM program and observed that some aspects of the new work control process are not fully implemented. The review team noted during the exit debrief that there has been significant progress since the two ISM reviews performed by CHG this past year but that there are opportunities for improvement. The most significant finding noted was that the work control practices associated with the C-200 tank farm retrieval project (Site Rep weekly 9/23/2005) were less than adequate. Another finding was that, contrary to the work control procedure, not all organizations were conducting final pre-job walkdowns with the team that performs the work. The team also noted that the job hazard analysis process did not require the evaluation of upset conditions and “what if” scenarios, that some corrective actions to prevent recurrence may be weak, and that some work instructions and operating procedures did not provide clear, unambiguous direction. The review team recognized several strengths including the new Executive Safety Review Board that provides both an excellent forum for senior management to understand the health of their safety management programs as well as communicates their expectations regarding these programs.

Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant (WTP): A member of the Board’s staff and one of its outside experts were in Richland to attend a review by the ORP peer review team (PRT) for equipment. The PRT reviewed the current design work on components such as the melters, pressure vessels, process piping, and electrical raceways. The team will complete their reviews next week off-site and prepare their report within the next few weeks.

ORP is also currently conducting an assessment of recent failures to fully comply with quality standards during construction activities. They are evaluating a set of specific events to determine if a broader breakdown of the quality assurance program exists. The exit brief is scheduled for late next week with a written report to follow.

Plutonium 238 Drums: The in-situ inspection of the last nine drums showed that the inner containers for high heat content material were intact and no upset conditions were encountered. The drums have been retrieved and placed in interim safe storage. The site reps observed retrieval activities including the overpacking of nearby drums.

K East Basin Sludge Cleanup: The improved water clarity that results from not vacuuming the sludge has made retrieval of the fuel storage racks and debris more efficient. Sludge removal will recommence in approximately ten weeks when the remaining racks and debris have been removed.

cc: Board Members